

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

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DRAFTED BY OPNAV(616):CAPT HURT:JMM
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EA/ANP - MR. MICHAUD
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OASD/ISA - MR. GOLDSMITH
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----- 031501

R 152339Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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COMSEVENTHFLT

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, AS

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO AUSTRALIA AND KANGAROO II (U)

REF: (A) AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 4763 (DTG 010714Z JUL 76),
(B) AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 4857 (DTG 070234Z JUL 76, (C)
CINCPAC DTG 111217Z JUL 76

1. (S) COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN REFTELS A
THRU C CONCERNING NPW PARTICIPATION IN AND VISITS ASSOCIATED
WITH EXERCISE KANGAROO II HAVE BEEN NOTED BY DEPARTMENT AND
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DOD.

2. (S) DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THAT TENTATIVE NAVY NPW PLANS FOR KANGAROO II ARE REASONABLE AND SHOULD BE SUPPORTED. THESE PLANS INCLUDE NPW PARTICIPATION BY ONLY USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) AND USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9) WITH AN AUSTRALIAN PORT VISIT FOR THESE SHIPS AFTER EXERCISE COMPLETION.

3. (S) WHILE WE RECOGNIZE GOA SENSITIVITIES AS THEY PROCEED WITH THE REOPENING OF AUSTRALIAN PORTS TO NPW, AN ANZUS NAVAL EXERCISE IS THE KIND OF ACTIVITY WHERE PORT VISITS BY THE PARTICIPATING FORCES ARE A ROUTINE AND EXPECTED COURTESY. IT IS APPARENT FROM ADOD MESSAGE (REFTEL B) THAT GOA FULLY UNDERSTANDS THIS AND EXPECTS US TO REQUEST

THESE VISITS. U.S. PARTICIPATION IN KANGAROO II MEANS THAT AUSTRALIAN FORCES WILL RECEIVE DIRECT BENEFIT FROM TRAINING WITH NPWS WHICH IN TURN SHOULD MAKE GOA SUPPORT FOR THESE VISITS EASIER TO DEFEND PUBLICLY THAN WOULD BE THE CASE WITH A CASUAL U.S. NPW VISIT. FOR THE U.S. TO SEND NPW OVERSEAS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANZUS EXERCISE AND NOT SEEK PORT ENTRY WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, GIVE GOA AND AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC PRECISELY THE WRONG MESSAGE AS TO WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR ANZUS PARTNERS AND BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR LONG-RANGE GOAL IN NORMALIZING NPW PORT ENTRY.

4. (S) REGARDING CONCERN THAT WE MAY BE OVERLOADING THE CIRCUIT, WE CONCUR THAT A VISIT BY FOUR NPWS AT ONE TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN AN OVERLOAD. HOWEVER, SNOOK VISIT WAS SUBMITTED ONLY TO SATISFY SPECIFIC PM REQUEST WITH TRUXTUN VISIT ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO BE "ICEBREAKER" FOR NPW PARTICIPATING IN KANGAROO II. SCENARIO WITH SNOOK VISIT ADDED DOES NOT APPEAR TO US TO BE EXCESSIVE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE EXERCISE HAVING SUCH TANGIBLE BENEFIT TO AUSTRALIA.

5. (S) AS TO QUESTION OF WHICH PORTS, WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY ON NEED TO ACHIEVE ADEQUATE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF AUSTRALIAN PORTS FOR NPW VISITS AND NOT ALLOW THESE SHIPS TO BE RESTRICTED TO ONE OR TWO PORTS. ASSUMING WE GET GOA APPROVAL ON USE OF MELBOURNE FOR TRUXTUN'S SEPTEMBER

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VISIT, WE FEEL PROSPECTS FOR AN ENTERPRISE VISIT THERE AFTER KANGAROO II SHOULD BE GOOD AND THAT A VISIT BY LONG BEACH TO SOME OTHER EAST COAST PORT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE. THIS ASSUMES ALL GOES WELL WITH THE FIRST TWO VISITS. AT THIS STAGE WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD ACCEPT ADOD REQUEST TO USE ONLY WEST COAST PORTS OWING TO THE ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIRED FOR THE SHIPS TO MAKE THE LONG TRANSIT FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST COAST AND THEN BACK TO THE SOUTH

PACIFIC.

6. (S) EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK FIRM GOA APPROVAL OF THE SNOOK VISIT BY 27 JULY AND THE TRUXTUN VISIT BY 18 AUGUST IN ORDER FOR NAVY TO ADJUST SCHEDULES IF THAT BECOMES NECESSARY. ALSO REQUEST EMBASSY CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH DEPARTMENT ON FURTHER EFFORTS CONCERNING NPW PORT VISITS FOR KANGAROO II SO THAT JOINT STATE/DEFENSE INPUT CAN BE PROVIDED. KISSINGER

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